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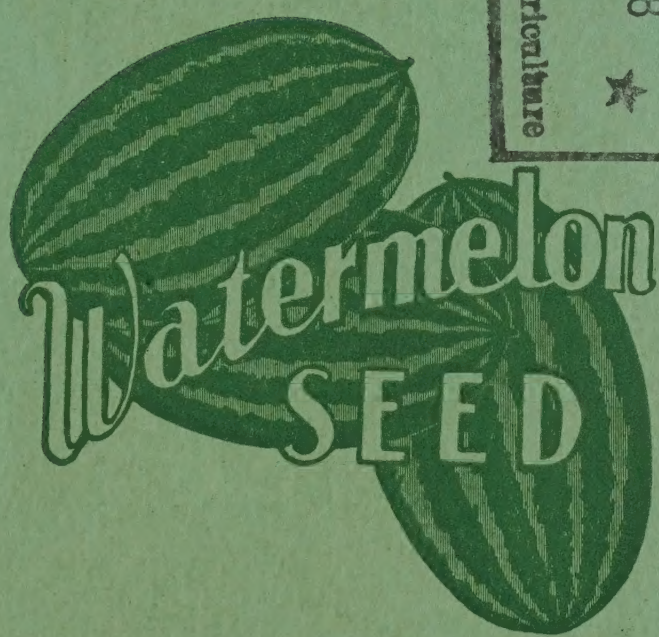
U. S. Department of Agriculture



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D. H. GILBERT

**GROWER OF WATERMELONS
EXPRESSLY FOR SEED
MONTICELLO, FLORIDA**



A Collection of Ribault Melons Weighing 62 to 84 Pounds.

PREFACE



In the following pages of this booklet you will find catalogued the out-standing new as well as all of the old standard varieties Watermelon.

The discriptions are clear, brief and without exaggeration, giving the time for maturing and average size of each variety, calculated on crops grown in Florida.

I have also designated the varieties most suitable for shipping to distant markets, comparing quality, stating color and size of the seeds.

To The Seed Trade

No person can read through this booklet, and miss the thought of the tremendous effort that it represents.

Practical knowledge, experience and reliability have made it possible,—the one goal has ever been,—the accomplishment of improved and better strains.

Here is recorded the unquestionable leadership which I have maintained these many years in the field of growing Watermelons expressly for seed. I am proud to know that I have been the main factor in bringing to the many the pure and true strains of varieties watermelon.

And it is gladdening to know that a prophet has not been without honor in his own country. When I started this business in Florida, very few felt that there could possibly be a nationwide demand for the seed products, but I ventured forth to do the thing in a big way,—the result of my efforts have spread to every corner of the Country, and beyond.

One has but to compare this catalog with the records of other years to see the great strides that have been made,—and with such a record, I come to you and solicit your patronage.

No matter what your purchase may be, I pledge you to apply the service and experience, which have made my business of growing seed one of America's great industries.

Sincerely,

D. H. GILBERT.

Origin of the Watermelon

The Watermelon, from the botanical standpoint belongs to the group—"Cucurbitaceae" and is known to the botanist as "*Citrullus Vulgaris*".

Since it has a Sanskrit name was probably taken to India early, and reached China about the 10th, century A. D.

It has no name in the ancient Greek or Latin language, probably not known before the Christian Era.

The claim that Watermelon to be a native of Africa is conflicting with history, we learn that the seed from Africa was brought to America about the 16th, century, and in the year 1562, Jean Ribault is mentioned as eating Watermelon, probably the first white person to eat Watermelon in America, which was nearly half century earlier than the time the seed from Africa was reported.

History, relating the circumstances about Ribault states, that Jean Ribault in the year 1562 with a colony of Huguenots landed at a point on the Saint Mary's River in Florida, there met two Indians who possessed numerous gold trinkets.

Upon inquiry about the gold, Ribault was directed west, giving signs of invitation to follow them, accompanied by two of his party Ribault traveled inland west to Lake Miccosukee, there encountered a tribe of Indians—"The Natchez"—who were very friendly, their Chief informed Ribault that they were driven from the west (Mexico) by hostile Indians, and that his tribe was content to settle there, and in addition to hunting, raised vegetables.

When Ribault prepared to return to his colony and boat, which was anchored on the

Saint Mary's River, he was offered, among other vegetables, Watermelons, which is the first mention of Watermelon in American history.

The discovery was in the now Jefferson County, Florida, at or near the present site of Monticello, therefore it cannot successfully be disputed that Watermelon originated, so far as America is concerned, in Florida.

For nearly 200 years after Ribault's discovery, watermelon was not mentioned as being raised in any other part of America.

About the year 1700 it was mentioned as one of the vegetables raised along the coast of Carolina, but did not become prominent till near the 18th, century.

It was described by David Livingston in 1857 as being abundant in favorable years in the Kala hari Desert, (Probably refering mainly to the citron) normally is a dry-weather plant and grows satisfactorily in a dry country.

There are a number of marked types of the cultivated varieties, some are more disease resistant, stronger growers, and more productive.

The original introduction of the Watermelon into the United States dates back to 1562, and is not likely that it reached us from Mediterranean lands.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that Jefferson County, Florida, produced and supplied about 80% of all watermelon seed used for seeding purposes in the United States. Therefore, Monticello, Florida, can rightfully claim the Watermelon seed industry.

The Watermelon is the most valuable vine crop grown in the United States, it has a wide distribution as a garden plant.

Approximately 500,000 acres are planted annually in the United States, of this acreage about 250,000 are planted by commercial grow-

ers, 150,000 by market gardeners who plant one acre or less, 92,000 to small garden patches, and 8,000 for seeding purposes.

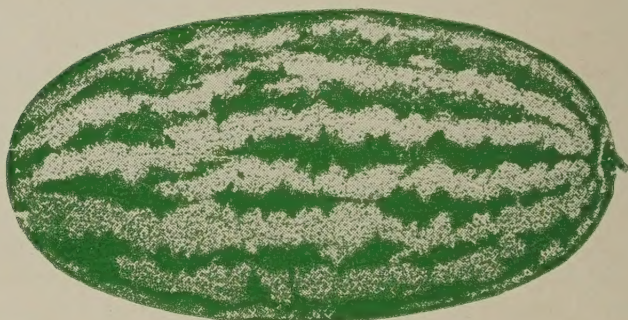
The commercial production is largely confined to the region to which the long-leaf pine is naturally distributed. This region includes the States bordering the Atlantic, from Virginia southward, also those States bordering the Gulf. Other States also outside this territory which grow Watermelons on a commercial scale.

The value of the commercial crop of Watermelons in the United States, taking the years 1917 to 1933, was approximately \$5,000,000 annually. The industry in the southeastern and southern sections returned for the crop \$3,500,000, the southwestern section \$1,000,000, and all other sections \$500,000.

The above figures do not include the value of the seed product.

In comparison with other vegetable crops, the Watermelon stands sixth in value, in order named; Irish Potatoes, Tomatoes, Onions, Cabbage, and Sweet Potatoes.

Until about 1890 the production of Watermelon seed was largely confined to Kansas and Oklahoma, or the Arkansas Valley, but for various causes, principally the low cost of production of quality seed, the users of the seed have turned their attention to the southeast and largely in the northern section of Florida, where, according to references and best information the Watermelon originated, and was first known in the United States.



Alabama Sweet

THE rind is green, marked with deeper green mottled stripes, medium thin and very tough, making the melon a first class shipper. The flesh is red, fine grained, firm and stringless. Seeds brown smeared. 85 days. 30 pounds.

Angeleno Black and White Seeded

BEAUTIFUL dark green rind, with a tinge of gold showing through the green. Sparkling red flesh almost to the rind and excellent flavor; good shipper; 25 pounds; 85 days.



Angel Kiss

ONE of the best flavored melons. Rind gray, flesh of the deepest crimson, sweet and melting. Vines robust strong-growing and prolific. Seeds white; 80 days. 20 pounds.

Arnold Grey

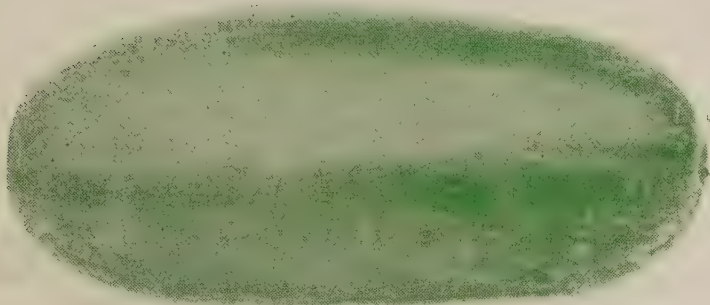
THE Arnold Grey is of recent introduction. is long and thick. The rind is grey with small threads of very light green cross woven. The rind is tough and will stand hard usage, prolific, free from hard centers, flesh red and sweet. Creamy white seeds smeared with light brown. Grows large uniform melons and is very satisfactory shipping melon. 85 days; 30 pounds.



Black Diamond

THE vines are of a vigorous growth and heavy producers, the melons are nearly round in form, the skin is dark green, slightly striped with narrow bands of a lighter green but when full ripe the melons are solid dark green, the flesh is red and firm; a good shipper. Grows large, not unusual for specimens to weight 80 pounds; 95 days; seed black; 40 pounds.

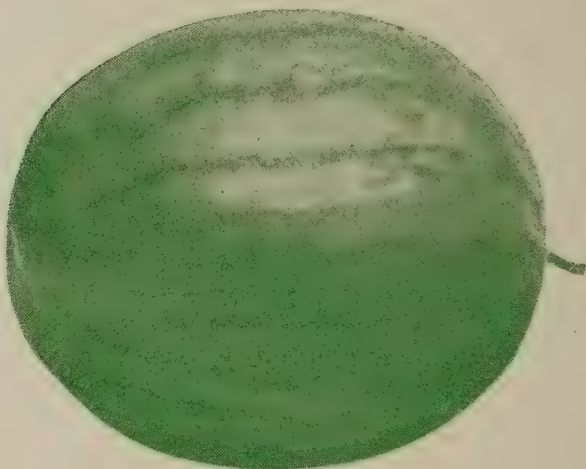
Blue Watson



THIS is a distinct variety of the Tom Watson. The rind is dark-blue-green, some melons are nearly black. The seed are light brown and brown smeared, very similar to the old type Watson. The flesh is deep red and very sweet. The rind is very tough making it a good shipper. In general shape it is like the Watson, grows fully as large and more prolific, and every melon cuts red, 85 days; 35 pounds.

Bradford

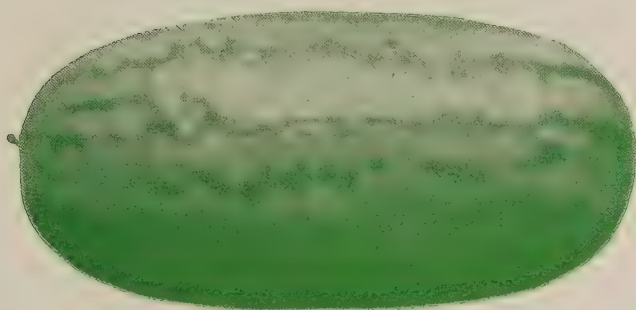
VINES very vigorous and productive. Rind dark green with darker stripes. Is a long melon, grows uniform in size; flesh red, tender and sweet; an excellent shipping sort. Seeds white; time for ripening 85 days; 30 lbs.



White and Black Seeded Chilean

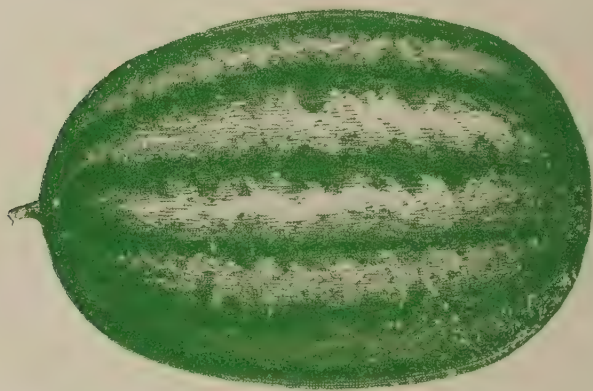
THIS is a very attractive melon, being nearly round in form, with a dark green rind with black stripes. The flesh is of the very deepest red, solid and sweet. The rind is about one-quarter of an inch thick but very strong. One of the best shippers. 25 pounds; 85 days.

Gilbert's Creation



I HAVE developed a remarkable watermelon in this new variety, which will attract the attention of commercial growers and produce firms that seek a big fine melon, and will be equally as pleasing to the local market growers. This variety certainly should appeal to growers catering to markets that will pay satisfactory prices for attractive products. Eating and shipping quality, productiveness and size were the things I had in mind in propagating this melon, and have been successful beyond my fondest expectations.

The rind is thin for such an enormous size melon, is extremely tough, and will stand ordinary handling and shipping with no bad effects; the meat is sparkling red with no white parts, of a delicious flavor. The melon is a rich green with mottled stripes. 85 days; 40 pounds.

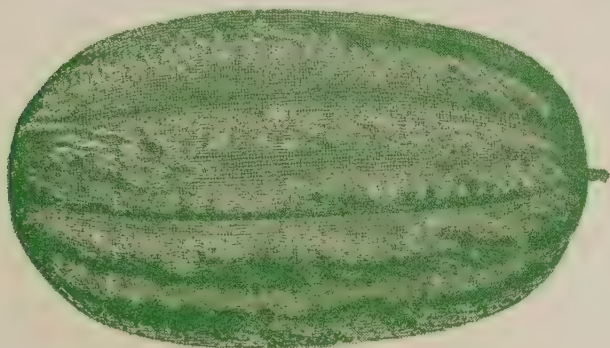


Cuban Queen

IT is an enormous yielder, oval in shape, skin striped light and dark green, flesh pink, solid. Seeds black. 90 days. A good shipper. 30 pounds.

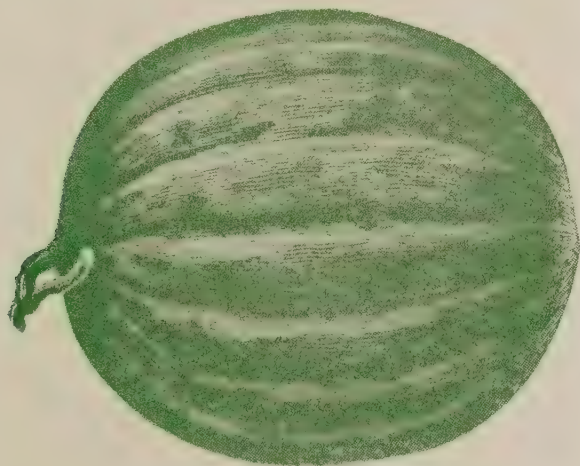
Coles' or Harris' Earliest

AN extra early melon, oval with broad bands of mottled stripes light and dark green. Flesh bright pink and very tender, vines are very vigorous and productive. Not a good shipper. Seed black. 80 days. 25 pounds.



Dixie

IT has a remarkable thin rind almost impenetrable, which preserves it for a great length of time. vines thrifty and strong. very productive; the flesh is fine rich scarlet and of good quality. Seed black, oblong to long. 85 days; 25 pounds.



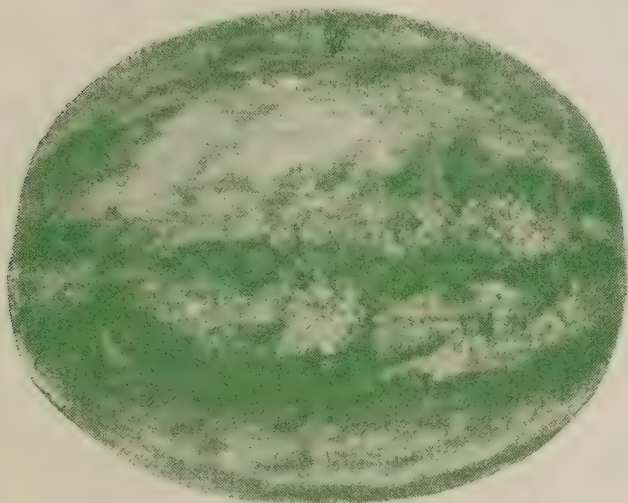
Dark Icing

FRUITS are oval in form with dark green skin, flesh deep pink, sweet, rind thin and brittle; not a good shipper. Seeds white; 80 days; 20 pounds.



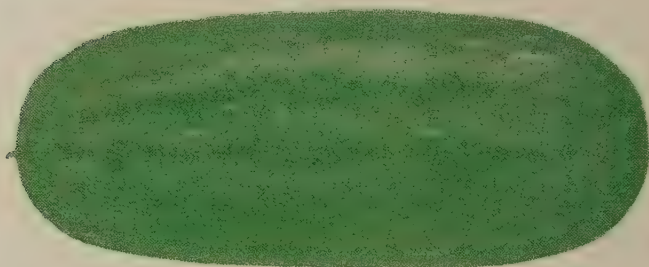
Dixie Queen

THE correct name for this melon is DIXIE QUEEN, it is known in some sections as Cuban Queen, but is confusing with the old variety by same name which has large black seed and rather coarse flesh. Dixie Queen is an enormous yielder, vines are of vigorous growth, melons in form are round to oval, skin striped light and dark green, fruits are of good size, flesh bright red, crisp and splendid quality, good shipper, and sell to good advantage, seeds small white, and very few in each melon, one pound of Dixie Queen seed will plant as much ground as two pounds of Stone Mountain or other large type seed, medium early, and is a very satisfactory melon with all who have grown it for market. 85 days; 30 pounds.



Early Kansas

A WONDERFUL NEW WATERMELON. Results from trials in many parts of the country were highly satisfactory, proving beyond a doubt that this is the largest of all early melons, ten days or more earlier to ripen than Watson. The Early Kansas has finest texture, sweet flavor and melting, bright red meat, solid to the rind, which is not thick. Nearly round in form, light green with broad bands of wavy stripes, growing 30 to 60 pound melons, with some specimens up to 80 pounds, seed red when green but dry to buff color and very few to each melon. It is a very robust grower, heavy deep rooting vines assure a heavy cropper, the productiveness is equal to or better than any other melon, and every melon a good one, no white or stringy hearts, and a wonderful shipper. IT SHOULD MAKE A PROFIT TO A GROWER UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS OTHER VARIETIES MAY SHOW A LOSS.



Excel Improved White Seeded

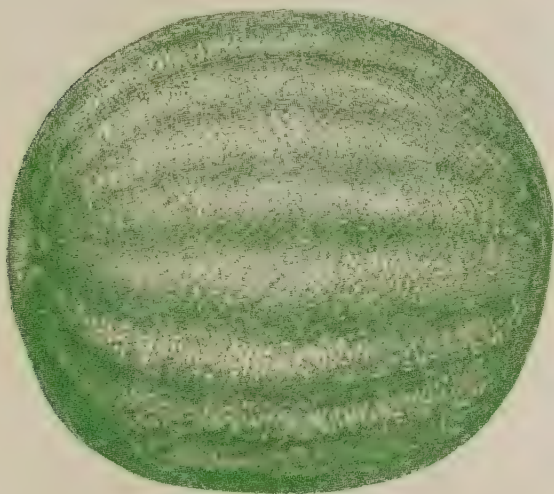
EXCEL produces melons eighteen to twenty-two inches long by twelve to sixteen inches in diameter, and weighing from 30 to 60 pounds; the dark green rind, indistinctly striped with a shade lighter green, is tough and easily withstands far distant shipment. The deep red flesh is crisp, melting and of finest flavor, entirely free from core or hard centers. Heart large and very firm with small seed cavity. Seeds white, with black tips; 95 days; 35 pounds.

Excel

ORIGINAL strain, black seeded, with small percent light colored seeds. 95 days; 30 pounds. Good shipper.

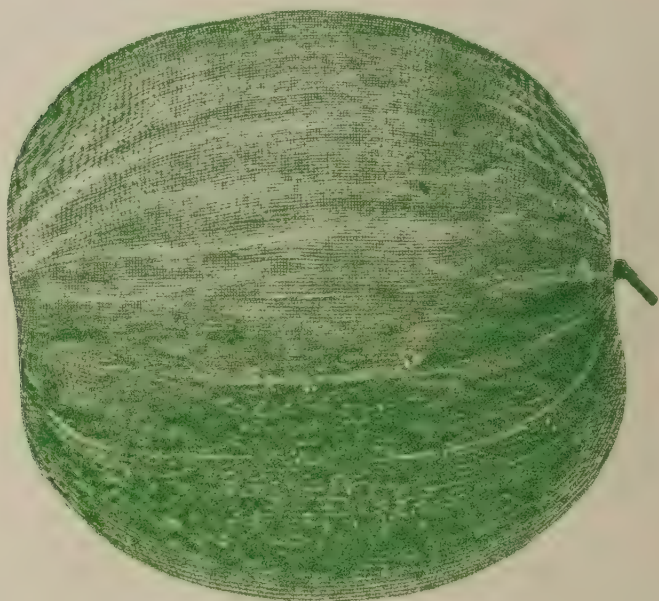
Florida Favorite

A LONG melon with dark green skin faintly striped with a lighter green; deep red flesh of excellent flavor, one of the best table sort; fairly good shipper. Seeds white; 80 days; 20 pounds.



Fordhook Early

THE fruits are of good size, rather short and blocky in form, skin dark mottled green, flesh red, crisp and of splendid quality. Rind thin; not a good shipper; seeds white; 80 days. 20 lbs.



Florida Giant

THE vines are of a vigorous growth and heavy producers, the melons are nearly round in form, the skin is solid dark green, the flesh is red and firm; a good shipper. Grows larger than most any other variety, not unusual for specimens to weigh 100 pounds; 95 days; seed black. 40 pounds.

Gray Monarch

RIND mottled gray, shape long, flesh red and of excellent flavor. Not a good shipper; rind thin and brittle. Seeds white; 80 days; 20 pounds.

Georgia Rattlesnake



IS an elongated gray with light green stripes, an excellent shipper, vines vigorous and productive. Flesh red and sweet, seeds white with black tips. 90 days; 25 pounds.



Golden Honey (Improved)

A GOLDEN flesh melon glistening amber shade of yellow, very tender and delicious flavor, round in form, rind light green with mottled stripes, entirely free from hard centers or stringy sections. Seeds brown, 25 pounds; 90 days. Good shipper.

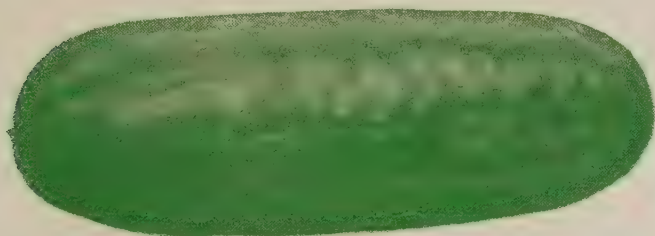


Grey Jacket

THE productiveness is wonderful, the eating quality is all that could be desired in a watermelon, the sparkling red flesh is very sweet and entirely free from hard centers or stringiness, yet the flesh is very firm and compact. The size is uniformly large, color of rind grey, ripens medium early, and is one of the best shippers. 85 days; 30 pounds.

Hasting's Greystone

THE Originators of Greystone claim it is a grey skin Stone Mountain with small white seeds, it has all the splendid qualities of the Stone Mountain, blocky shape, tender, firm, fine grained sweet flesh. 85 days; 35 pounds.



Halbert's Honey

THIS melon is dark green, slightly ridged and blunt at both ends, the flesh is very sweet and melting, leaves no trace of pulp; bright crimson; rind very tender; grows long; seeds white, and black tips; 80 days; 25 lbs.

Hungarian Honey

A SMALL globe-shaped melon, color mottled green and veined with a darker shade; flesh bright red, ripening close to the rind, sweet and tender; seeds small brown; 90 days; 10 pounds.

Irish Grey

A DISTINCT and very valuable melon, wonderfully productive; long, thick, uniform; color of rind, yellowish grey interwoven with threadlike veins, smooth marble-like surface, flesh sparkling bright red, sweet and entirely free from hard centers or stringiness, yet the flesh is very firm and compact; will not break when sliced; one of the best shippers; 30 pounds; 95 days, seeds white.

Ice Cream

ONE of the best early sorts for home garden; not a good shipper. Vines hardy and productive; fruit oblong; bright mottled green; rind thin, flesh light pink; crisp and sweet. Seed white; 80 days; 25 pounds.

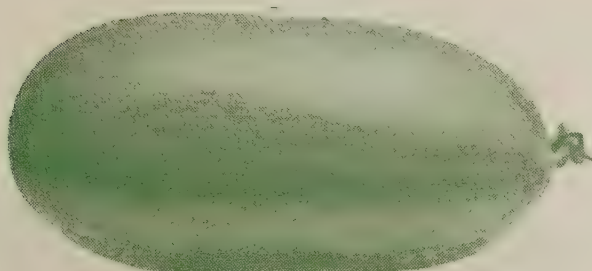


Klondike Black and Brown Seeded

THIS is a very popular melon in some sections, being of the very best quality, small dark colored seed; rind dark green, oblong to long, flesh deep scarlet; 90 days; 20 pounds; good shipper.

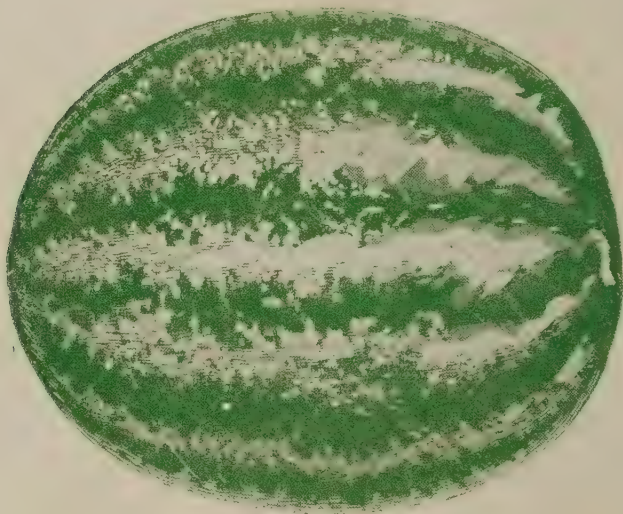
Striped Klondike (New)

THE flesh is the deepest red known to watermelons, sweet, stringless and melting. The rind light green conspicuously striped with darker green, advertising itself on the market; thin, hard and tough, making it desirable for shipping. The firm flesh will keep many days. 25 pounds; 90 days.



Gilbert's Kleckley Sweet

YEARS ago I set out to perfect this favorite melon, for the reason it was showing some deterioration, melons were not all growing uniform in size, and with the feeling that it is a grower's duty to keep the type of all good melons up to standard, I carefully selected the seed and bred this variety until I now have a much better melon than the old Kleckley Sweet. This improved strain grows uniformly large, retaining all of the fine qualities as a table melon, with an important added feature of having much harder rind. The seed are creamy white, with a trace of brown on some of the seed, somewhat larger than the old type seed; the color of rind remains the same—dark bluish green—and grows much larger; 85 days; 25 pounds.



Kolb Gem

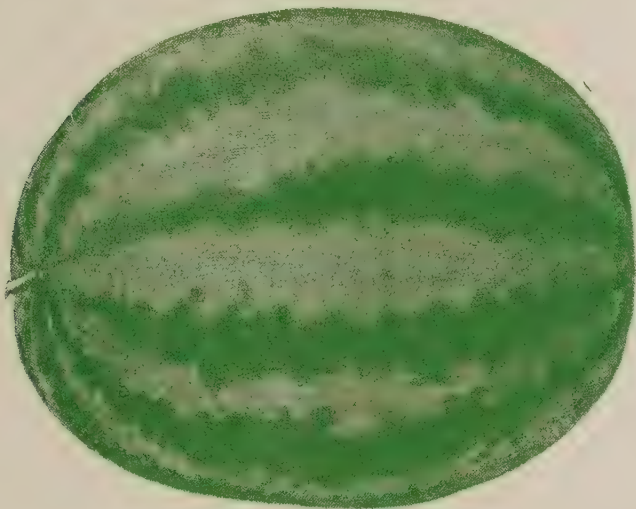
COLOR dark green, broad, bright stripes, nearly round, rind thick. One of the best shippers, flesh medium red and very firm. Seed black; 90 days; 25 pounds.

Iceberg or Imp. Kolb Gem

IN general shape, size and appearance it is similar to the old-fashioned Kolb Gem, but is distinctly darker; it has a very firm, hard rind, and is a good shipper; flesh red, extending near the rind. Seeds black. 90 days; 30 pounds.

McIvers Wond. Sugar

THIS is a very hardy grower; leaves on the vines differ in shape from most other sorts, exceedingly productive. Elongated, rind dark green, striped with broad bands of light green; flesh bright red, firm and of extra quality. Seeds white, with an occasional seed slightly brown tipped; good shipper; 100 days; 30 pounds.

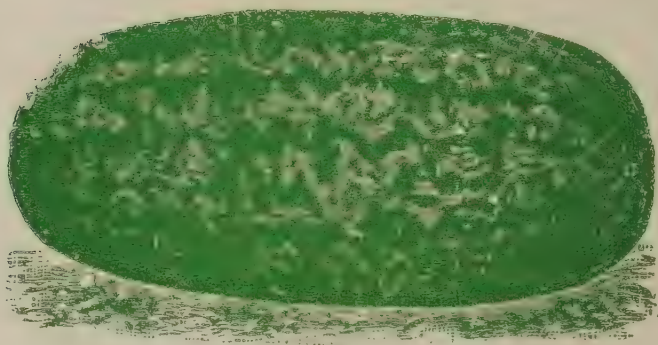


Nancy or Nancy Hanks

RIND dark green, slightly striped with lighter green, almost round in shape; flesh bright red, long distance shipper; seeds white and is unusually productive. Grows large uniform melons of good quality; 85 days; 30 pounds.

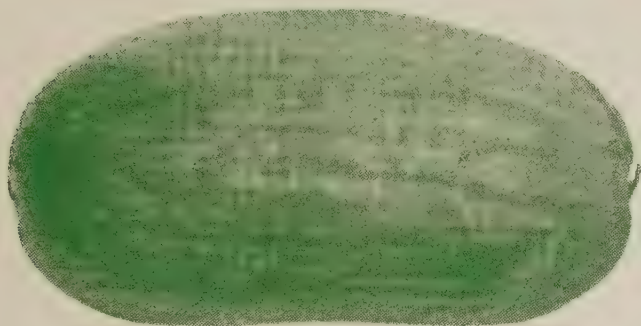
Phinney's Early

A VERY sure cropper; vines vigorous and fruiting quite heavy. Fruit oblong and striped with two shades of green; rind thin, flesh pink and tender; not a good shipper; seed white with black tips. 80 days; 20 lbs.



Porto Rico

PORTO RICO is a new yellow fleshed watermelon. The flesh is very tender and melting of a fine sugary and delicious flavor, surpassing many of the red flesh melons; the outside skin is dark green mingled with stripes of a lighter green, grows oblong in shape, with firm, hard rind, and should prove a popular watermelon for home gardens. 90 days; 25 pounds. Seed brown.



Pride of Muscatine

A NEW wilt resistant strain of the popular Kleckley's Sweet recommended to growers in commercial areas where wilts is prevalent. The rind is thick and makes this melon a better shipper than Kleckley's Sweet. It has dark green skin and beautiful deep red flesh which is sweet, crisp, and tender. Seeds white; 90 days; 25 pounds.

Perfection

THIS fine new melon has been very popularly received. It grows uniform in shape, large, heavy, oblong, and even dark green skin; rather thin rind, bright scarlet flesh; an all-around fine melon for home and nearby markets. Seeds white with black tips. 90 days; 25 pounds.

Gilbert's New Ribault (Formerly Radio)

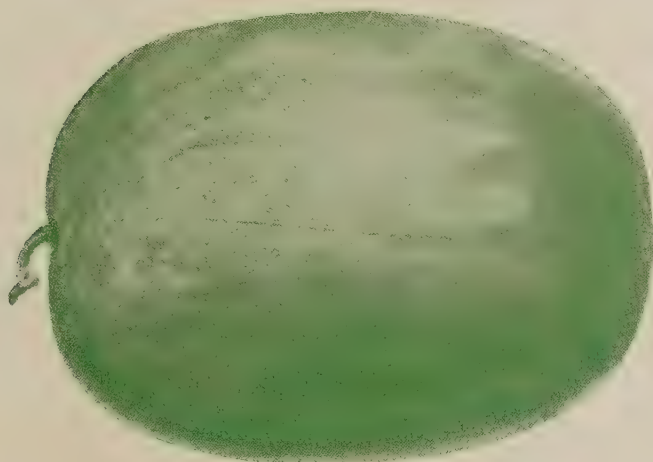


RIBAULT is a new watermelon, long and thick, measuring from 24 to 30 inches long by 14 to 18 inches in diameter. The rind is dark green indistinctly striped with mingled lighter green; the young melons will show distinct stripes, but as they develop and ripen the stripes practically fade away leaving a glossy green color; the rind is medium thick, just thick enough to insure long keeping and rough usage during shipping, and is woven together like leather, hard to pull apart, or break even after it is full ripe. The meat is red and sweet, free from hard centers, grows remarkably large, and is very prolific. It is a good shipper. The seeds are large, white with black rings or tips, with a very small seed cavity; 95 days; 40 pounds.

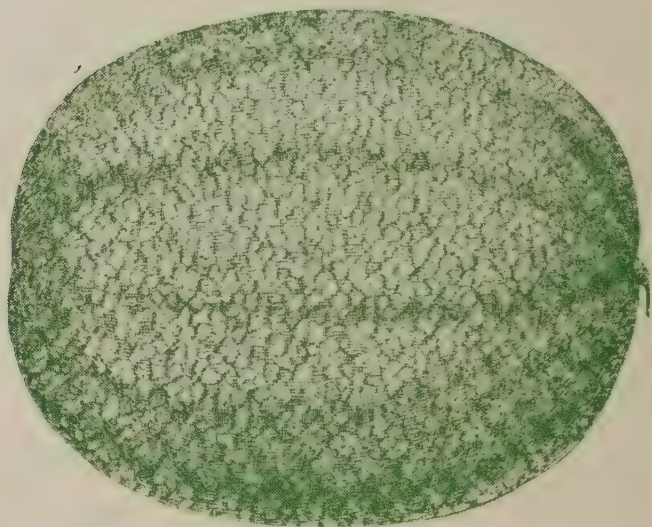
Round Light Icing

THE melon is oval shape, vines strong and very prolific. Melons grow unusually uniform in size. Rind gray to light green. Flesh red and sweet, not a good shipper. Seeds white; 80 days; 20 pounds.

Stone Mountain or Dixie Bell



A NEW introduction of best quality, and is claimed to be the sweetest of all the large melons; in shape it is almost round, green rind, medium thick, flesh rich scarlet, seed white with black tips; 90 days; 30 pounds; good shipper.



Sweetheart

VINES vigorous and very productive, almost round in shape, very heavy and solid, rind thin but firm, color very light green, almost grey, slightly veined with a darker shade. Flesh pink, seed black; 90 days; 30 pounds; good shipper.

Sugar Stick

ALIGHT green melon of oblong form, flesh bright red melting and sugary. The vines are very vigorous and productive. The rind is thin and tough; a good shipper. Seeds black; 85 days; 30 pounds.

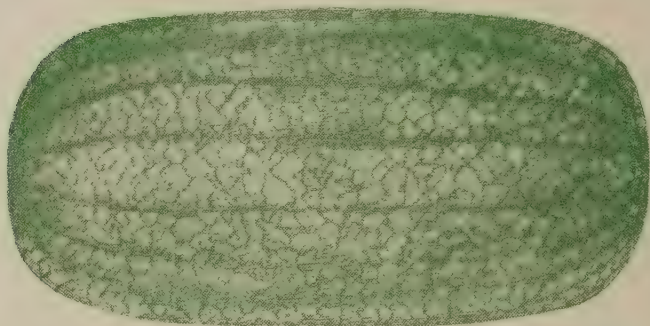
Smith, Cletex or Spotted Watson



THIS melon originated few years ago in Oklahoma, named "The Smith," two years later it was known in Texas as "Cletex," also called Spotted Watson, and is one of the best all purpose melons. producing melons about the same shape and size of the Watson. with indistinct stripes of a spotted character. a sort of marbled effect mixed with dark green color which gives it an odd and beautiful color. The flesh is red and sweet, rind tough which assures good shipping quality. Seeds brown smeared; 90 days; 30 pounds.

The Schochler

IS a new variety originated in Texas; it is long, thick dark green rind with faint, almost invisible stripes, rind tough and will stand long distance shipment. Its size is one of its greatest features, often growing 60 to 70 pounds. Its meat is a dark red and good flavored. 95 days; 40 pounds.



Thurmond Grey

“THURMOND GREY” has permanently taken a place among the best shipping varieties of melon, and will be grown extensively in the future. It grows to large size, productive, and is a good shipping sort. The cutting quality is good. Long, thick green-gray melon, with red flesh, thin rind; 95 days: 30 pounds; seeds brown.

Triumph

THIS melon is a market sort and one of the best shippers; very productive, and of uniformly large size. The rind dark green, indistinctly striped with a lighter shade. Seeds black; 90 days; 40 pounds.

Gilbert's Cut-Red Watson

THERE has never been, so far, a water-melon introduced that became as popular as the Watson. It will be planted commercially for a long time yet,—provided the seed planted are of known quality. Some complaint has been in evidence about the Watson variety cutting with hard centers and almost worthless for market, which caused me to work on this melon with the view of breeding up a type that eliminates the strain that produces hard white centers. I have been very successful in this work and have perfected a strain of Watson that cuts red and sweet and grows big, dark glossy green melons, frequently growing 50 to 60 pounds in weight; produces melons 18 to 24 inches long by 10 to 12 inches in diameter; seeds light brown smeared with darker brown; 95 days; 30 pounds.

Winter Queen

WINTER QUEENS are nearly round and nearly white. The seeds are black and small. The flesh deep red, very firm, stringless, sweet, and of excellent quality. Ripen in about 100 days, but remain solid and of good quality two or three months and may be kept until Christmas; 10 lbs.; good shipper.



Wondermelon

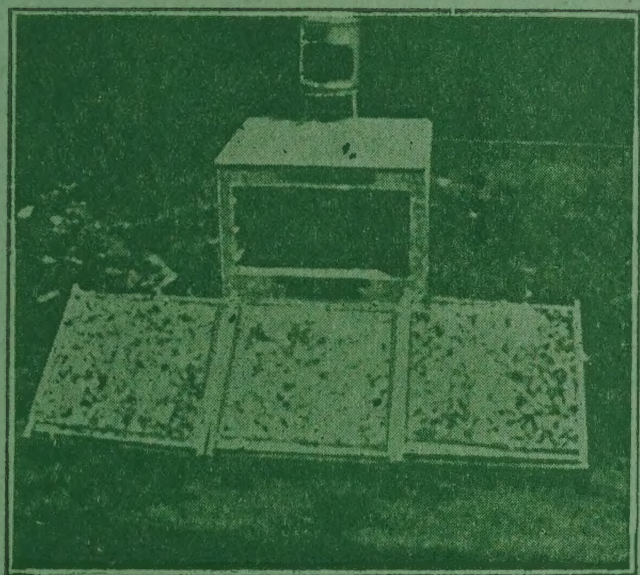
“**W**ONDERMELON” is comparatively a new variety, but has become one of the favorites. No watermelon has received more praise in the short time of its existence, and justly so, for it is one of the finest flavored melons raised. It is also very productive, grows great quantities of big, fine, dark glossy green melons. The rind is rather thin but reasonably tough to insure good carrying for short hauls, and any market that receives this melon will sell to good advantage. Grows long and thick, seeds white, flesh deep red, juicy and sweet. 85 days; 30 pounds.

Watermelon Culture

Select sandy loam soil, prepare the land by breaking flush, using judgment as to the depth to plow. If porous sandy soil plow as shallow as can, and do the work well; if loam with clay subsoil plow deep, and if the land is not unusually rough, do not harrow, leaving it rough in reason for the vines to cling in case of wind storms. Where land is level and can be cultivated two ways, check in rows 10x10 feet, merely marking one way, but good deep furrow the other way, that the fertilizer will be well covered. Use 700 pounds fertilizer per acre, analyzing about 8 per cent phosphoric acid, 6 per cent potash, 6 per cent ammonia, preferably made from nitrate of soda, cotton seed meal, dried blood, superphosphate, muriate and sulphate of potash. Better results to use two applications, applying about two-thirds the amount before planting, and balance as the vines begin to run. On land that will not permit cultivating two ways, suggest to lay off rows 12 feet apart, use a distributor and put the fertilizer all along, and plant the seed 8 feet apart in drill, and after the plants are strong, thin to one in each hill, cultivate shallow and fast. There is no particular method of cultivation that is much the best, simply keep the weeds and grass from appearing by constantly stirring the soil, and it is not well to turn the vines, not that it will greatly injure the plant, but sure to delay setting of fruit. Never plant same land two years in succession to watermelons.

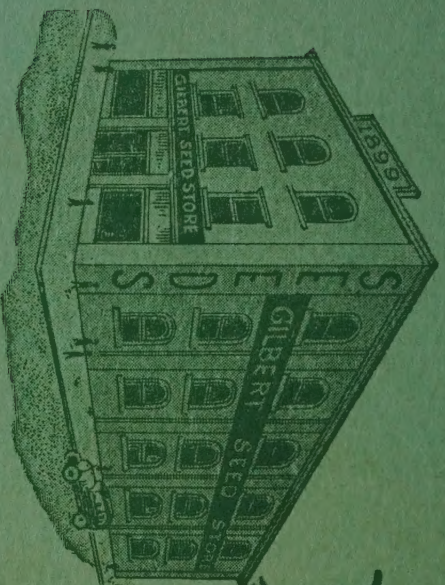


Dr. H. Gilbert



Testing Seed for Germination

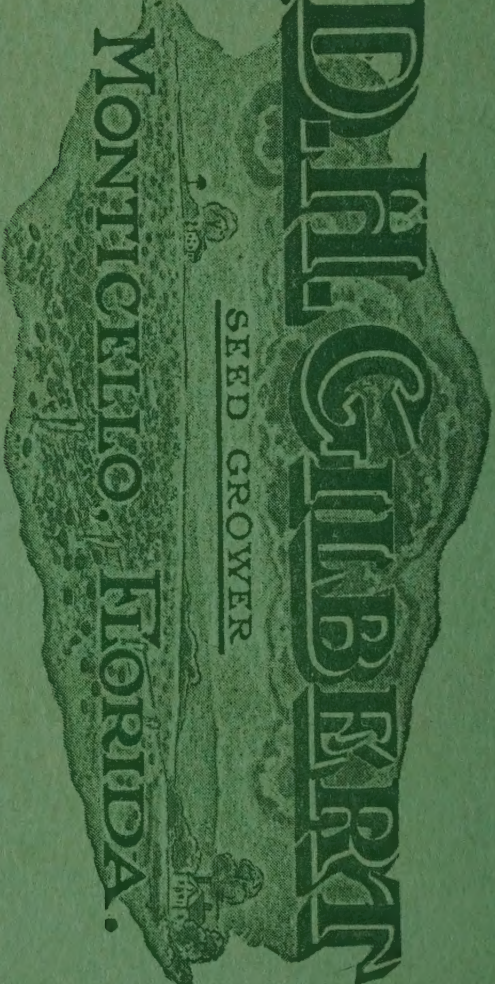
AN INDUSTRY BUILT ON A SOLID FOUNDATION



D. H. GILBERT

SEED GROWER

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